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March 6, 2014

Senator Gary LeBeau  
Representative Chris Perone  
Senator L. Scott Frantz  
Representative Gail Lavielle

Members of the Commerce Committee:

The MetroHartford Alliance serves as the Region's economic development leader and the City's Chamber of Commerce. Our investors include businesses of all sizes, health care providers, institutions of higher education, and the Region's municipalities. Our mission is to ensure that the Region competes aggressively and successfully for jobs, capital, and talent so that it thrives as one of the country's premier places for all people to live, work, play, and raise a family.

I write to express the Alliance's support of two bills, HB5271 – An Act Concerning Funding for the Advanced Manufacturing of Composite Materials in Connecticut; and HB305 – An Act Concerning Funding for the "Dream It. Do It" Manufacturing Pipeline Program. Both bills focus on bolstering the manufacturing sector, a key driver of Connecticut's economic and employment growth. We have read the testimony submitted by Elliot Ginsberg, the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology, Inc. ("CCAT"), and endorse his specific points in support of the two bills.

HB5271 will extend assistance to Connecticut's aerospace, defense, and general manufacturing sector through the development of an advanced self-diagnostic machining cell for highly integrated major composite assemblies at CCAT's Advanced Manufacturing Center in East Hartford. HB305 will provide grant-in-aid to fund operations of the Connecticut. Dream It. Do It. program to enhance Connecticut's pipeline of next generation manufacturing talent.

The passage of these two bills will significantly enhance the success of the State's ongoing investment in, and commitment to, advanced manufacturing and the ability of manufacturers to attract the skilled talent needed to meet escalating customer demands and to grow and compete in a global marketplace. Those talented individuals will in turn benefit from the competitive compensation and benefit packages associated with advanced manufacturing positions.

For these reasons, we urge the adoption of both HB5271 and HB305. Please call me at 860-728-2277 if you have any questions or require any additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Nelson Griebel".